

SESSION TITLE: Rethinking What Counts as Content - Four Truths

SESSION LENGTH: 60-75 minutes

OBJECTIVES: *At the end of the session students should be able to:*

- Identify the 4 kinds of truths and explore examples for a particular topic.
- Explain how including and acknowledging multiple truths can help meet the 3-fold goals of interpretation
- Illustrate how visitors can contribute to the content of the interpretive experience.

TRAINING AIDS:

- Powerpoint

HANDOUTS:

- Worksheet: Rethinking Content : The Four Truths
- Worksheet: Thinking in Truths

FACILITATOR NOTES:

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

When asking audience members to identify with specific truths in an example, it's important to think about where this session is in the training. If it's on the first day, make sure ground rules and/or a safe space has been established between participants if asking them to talk about controversial topics.

CONTENT	METHOD	TIME
Introduction: Talk about the number of visitors, average age = years of life experience = sources of content		5 minutes
Alternate Introduction: Throughout our interpretive training, we have been taught that it is important to include multiple perspectives when presenting the "truth" about our site. Representing multiple truths helps build the inclusivity of an idea or event by honoring personal experience, emotion, and action. Take a minute to identify a topic at your site that you interpret. Identify the multiple perspectives about that topic and share your challenges/successes in presenting those	Small group discussion	10 minutes

<p>perspectives with your table group.</p> <p>For example: Yellowstone wolves - ecological perspective, local residents, ranchers, hunters, park visitors, photographers, wolf lovers</p> <p>Which of the 3-fold goals does this address? How?</p>	Large group share out	10 minutes
<p>What are some sources of truth when it comes to content? (it's based on a frame of view)</p>	Popcorn	
<p>TRC Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Born out of South Africa in 1994 from apartheid Process to break down barriers that racial segregation had built up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Truth" is subjective Revealing is healing Truths are inherently about the people that are expressing them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healing as a goal Truth as a ladder to healing Multiplicity of Truth Truth as viewpoints/biases Truth is constructed Truths are equally valid. Truth does not equal fact 		
<p>The Ladder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forensic Truth - what does this mean to you? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The measurable Who shot who where? Resource's voice (tangible) Scientific and historical literacy Example used: forensic numbers from the 2016 election (perhaps use a different example that is not as raw or controversial with a new group?) Personal Truth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual narrative What did I witness? What did the dead person witness? What did they write? I witness statements from what happened Built from forensic and experience interacting 	Explanation Examples	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Shared personal stories - personal truths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Things we feel, fear, pay attention to - individual - come from our voice ○ Self awareness and individual agency - helping the individual see that they are an active participant ● Social Truth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collective Narrative ○ This is a “we” statement ○ Collective understanding of the world around us ○ Built from personal truths interacting ○ Social truth drives action - fear, sorrow, violence ○ Social truths are understandings of groups ○ One intangible meaning of what has happened. ○ Constructivism and community membership - ideas are built because they are built by us all, helps to feel kinship with one another ● Reconciliatory Truth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brings multiple social truths together and invites them to discuss their experience and what it means ○ This is sharing social truths ○ This process helps to identify common group with all these social truths. ○ This is how we overcome damage of the past and prevent damage of the future - how we live with one another ○ Increases social skills and capacity for social bridging - having to talk out our differences to be better citizens. ● Of all these rungs, Forensic Truth looks to our resource for content ● As we move up the ladder, we look to different truths for content (visitor = resource!) ● Each of the three goals show up in the rungs of the ladder. ● Freeman Tilden - the chief aim is no instruction, but provocation. We provoke to help make the world a better place. Interpretation is about asking the big questions facing our world. 		
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Activity: at tables talk about recent shared large news event and transition to power in terms of personal and social truth.	Small group share. popcorn	15 minutes
Unwrap- How did this process feel? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensic - what facts are you using? Are you using everything or are you introducing a personal bias by what facts you are using. Are you only using the facts that support your point of view? • Personal Truth - can be squishy because you can't plan for it. • Social Truth - there is no ONE social truth. • Reconciliatory - not about answering the question, it about having the conversation and being heard. 		5 minutes